

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the subject application. Claims 1-7, 9-16, 18, 19, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and claims 8, 17, and 20-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claims 1, 18, and 22 have been amended.

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject application based on the above amendments and the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7, 9-16, 18, 19, and 24 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,058,249 to Matsuda ("Matsuda" or the "Matsuda Reference"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the grounds for rejection for the reasons provided below.

The invention as claimed provides a printing apparatus having a confidential print function and, more specifically, a confidential processing unit 17 that "checks the password entered from the input unit 19 against the password that is attached to the print data" (Specification, page 10, lines 12-14) and a queue management unit 16 that stores "print requests for the confidential prints with a print hold status" (Id., page 11, lines 8-10). As a result, printing of normal print jobs is carried out in order of reception; priority of printing confidential documents is given in the order of release of the hold status (Id., page 11, lines 19-20); printing of confidential documents takes precedence over normal print jobs; and, moreover, no confidential printing job immediately follows another confidential printing job (Id., page 12, lines 23-26).

In contrast, the Matsuda reference discloses a multifunction image forming apparatus that includes "three print Que [sic: queue] tables for the copying function,

the facsimile function, and the printing function." Matsuda, col. 15, lines 50-52. The invention as claimed only deals with the printing mode of the Matsuda reference.

Matsuda assigns different priorities to the "print Que tables". For example, the highest priority is given to a copying job, the second highest priority is given to a facsimile job, and the lowest priority is given to a printing job. See, e.g., Id., col. 15, lines 60-65. Furthermore, according to Matsuda, printing jobs are "selected in the order they have been acquired." Id., col. 16, lines 13-14 (Emphasis added).

Although, Matsuda purports to teach that once the correct password has been entered, the password printing job takes precedence over the printing jobs that do not require entry of a password, Matsuda is completely silent about "printing of the password-attached print jobs in order of entry of the password" as recited in independent claims 1, 15, 17-19, and 24. Indeed, Matsuda teaches printing in order of receipt and does not teach, mention or suggest printing password-attached print jobs in the order of password entry. Accordingly, claims 1, 15, 17-19, and 24 and all claims depending therefrom are not anticipated or made obvious by the Matsuda reference.

Furthermore, with respect to claim 16 and new claims 25-45, Matsuda also does not teach, mention or suggest separating two password-attached print jobs by a predetermined amount of time or, alternatively, a normal print job interposed between the two so that one password-attached print job does not immediately follow another password-attached print job.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully maintains that, claims 1-7, 9-16, 18, 19, and 24 are not anticipated by the Matsuda reference. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that, claims 1-7, 9-16, 18, 19, and 24 satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 100, et seq., especially § 102(b), and are allowable. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 8, 17, and 20-22 as being unpatentable over Matsuda in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,567,180 to Kageyama, et al. ("Kageyama" or the "Kageyama Reference"); and claim 23 as being unpatentable over Matsuda in view of Kageyama further in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,956,471 to Ueda, et al. ("Ueda" or the "Ueda Reference"). The Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds for rejection for the reasons provided below.

The deficiencies of the Matsuda reference have been outlined above. The Kageyama reference, however, cannot make up for these deficiencies. Specifically, Kageyama discloses a printing apparatus that carries out print jobs transmitted from a plurality of computers in which the print jobs are printed in order of reception, based on a serial number. This serial numbers, however, do not correspond to an entered password of the present invention. Thus, Kageyama does not teach, mention or suggest printing password-attached print jobs in the order of password entry. Furthermore, Kageyama also does not teach, mention or suggest separating two password-attached print jobs by a predetermined amount of time or, alternatively, a normal print job interposed between the two so that one password-attached print job does not immediately follow another password-attached print job.

With respect to claim 22, Kageyama also does not teach, mention or suggest a control unit by which, upon entry, via said input unit, of the password for a password-attached print job that has been designated from among the password-attached print jobs displayed on said display unit, the print hold status of the password-attached print job for which the password has been entered is released and the printing thereof is carried out in preference over the normal print jobs, for which no password entry is required, that are waiting for print.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully maintains that, claims 8, 17, and 20-22 are not made obvious in view of Matsuda and Kageyama. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that, claims 8, 17, and 20-22 satisfy the requirements of 35

U.S.C. § 100, et seq., especially § 103(a), and are allowable. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

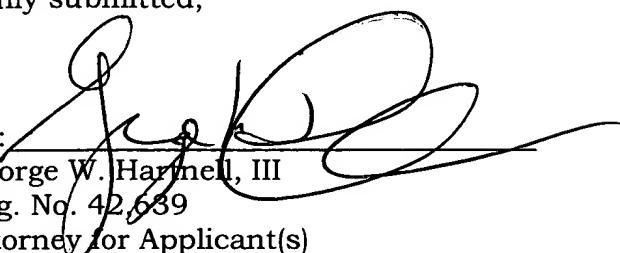
Likewise, the Ueda reference cannot make up for the deficiencies of the Matsuda and Kageyama references. Ueda teaches printing a document upon entry of a password. However, Ueda teaches that text data that does not require "correlation" is printed in preference over text data that does require correlation. See, e.g., Ueda, col. 5, lines 39-43. This teaches away from printing password-attached print jobs before normal print jobs. Moreover, Ueda also does not teach, mention or suggest printing password-attached print jobs in the order of password entry. Furthermore, Ueda does not teach, mention or suggest separating two password-attached print jobs by a predetermined amount of time or, alternatively, a normal print job interposed between the two so that one password-attached print job does not immediately follow another password-attached print job.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully maintains that, claim 23 is not made obvious in view of Matsuda and Kageyama, further in view of Ueda. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that, claim 23 satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 100, et seq., especially § 103(a), and are allowable. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

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The Applicant believes that no additional fee is required for consideration of the within Response. However, if for any reason the fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

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